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SPRUCE BARK BEETLE NEWS



REGION ONE Missoula, Montana August 20, 1953 No. 3

FLATHEAD VIEWS AND NEWS - With nearly 2 billion board feet of spruce resource at stake, Flathead Forest personnel are once more combing about 400,000 acres of spruce to determine the present status of infestation. To date, evidence points to the same spotty condition as that found last year.

Post-flight detection and ratio surveys are being pushed as rapidly as possible. Barney Coster, just returned from R.O.T.C. training and newly appointed Glacier View District alternate ranger for Ranger Dale Arnold, is spear-heading the detection surveys on the North Fork. Carl Marsh, Tally Lake assistant ranger, is making detection surveys scheduled on the Tally Lake District. On the Swan and Condon Districts the Bureau of Entomology is conducting a coordinated survey for the intermingled ownerships concerned. The major owners are the Northern Pacific, the State of Montana and the Flathead Forest. Dale VanDenburg, junior forester on the Swan District, has been loaned as project leader for the Bureau of Entomology survey crew. (Continued on next page.)

SCORE BOARD - INFESTED SPRUCE LOGGED

Forest (From National Forest Land)	1952 Flight Year (July 1, 1952 - June 30, 1953)	1953 Flight Year (July 1, 1953 to August 1)	1953 Flight Year LAST TWO WEEKS (August 2 to 15)
	Million Board Feet	Million Board Feet	Million Board Feet
Cabinet	0.8	0.3	0
Clearwater	0	0	0
Flathead	2.4	0.9	0.6
Kaniksu	6.5	2.8	1.0
Kootenai	57.7	2.3	6.4
Lolo	1.7	1.1	1/
St. Joe	7.2	2.1	1.3
Subtotal	76.3	9.5	9.3
<u>All Other Ownerships</u>	18.7	4.4	4.6
GRAND TOTALS	95.0	13.9	13.9

1/ No report from Lolo due to fires.

FLATHEAD NEWS (Continued)

Ranger Bert Bealey of Coram is of the opinion that the lower South Fork drainage is comparatively free of spruce bark beetles because the clearing operations in the Hungry Horse flowage area acted as a huge trap tree project during the past three years. Bert may have something there.

Charlie Shaw seems to be finding a few spots of infestation in the Spotted Bear District, but so far has not reported anything of major size. Earl McConnell has not reported any significant infestation on the Schafer District. Oliver Meyer of Big Prairie District, is beginning to find infestations of a very spotty nature in the areas from Big Salmon Creek southward. What to do in this Wilderness Area is a problem to be solved when the extent of the infestation is fully known. Bob Frey, in charge of insect surveys on the Flathead, and Tom Terrill of the Bureau, flew to Big Prairie to confer with Slim concerning these spots of infestation.

Access road construction is going forward at full speed. The North Fork road is being effectively torn up from stem to stern under the supervision of Resident Engineer Martin of the Bureau of Public Roads. Ranger Dale Arnold is having difficulty maintaining telephone communications because of this road construction work. Loads of lumber and logs up to 14,000 feet per load are still rolling, despite the construction interference.

Ranger Ray Gardner reports the Birky Brothers are doing a fine job of road construction into the Sheppard Creek area. They expect to have their sawmill in operation this week on the sale area.

Fred Metcalf, Glacier View timber assistant, reports that 1953 hits are difficult to predict as yet. On a tract of 115 acres on lower Moose Creek, however, the infestation increased from 8 percent to 55 percent from June 1 to July 25.

Russell Warner, logger for Rocky Mountain Timber Company, Columbia Falls, has started road construction in the 15,600 M Hallowatt sale area. Rocky Mountain Timber and Forest Products Company, Kalispell, expects to start moving infested spruce at a rapid rate soon.

Fred Broeder, Creston operator, reports he is getting "on top" of the Mission Divide infestation. Fred is now logging the Mission Divide tract, recently succeeding Russell Warner, who moved up to Hallowatt. Broeder has also just purchased the Henry Creek sale of 1,350 M which was a 28 percent infestation according to Art Whitney's pre-flight survey.

Lost Creek Lumber Company is also moving about 25 - 30 M per day from the head of Bug Creek, which seems to be well named.

Other logging operations now contributing to major bark beetle control work in the Flathead area include Woods and Dempsey in upper Martin Creek, Plum Creek Logging Company in Canyon Creek, Koenig Brothers in Red Meadow Creek, Rex Brown in distant Yakinikak, Superior Buildings Company on South Fork Coal Creek, Leland Price in the South Fork Coal Creek Basin, Wilhelm Brothers in the Lindbergh Lake area, Roxy Hollopeter in the Bunyan Lake area. All tracts offered for sale to date have been sold.

FLATHEAD NEWS (Continued)

Bud Daugharty has been assisting the Glacier View District in preparing a sale of over 10,000 M on the North Fork of Coal Creek and one of about the same size on Teepee Creek.

Forest Engineer Ed Morris and Assistant Ken Yeager, have been scouting and studying road routes with Dutch Kincaid of the Northern Pacific, in the Swan Valley for roads into Kraft Creek and Cold Creek. These roads are scheduled for joint construction by the Northern Pacific and the Forest Service.

Rangers Arnold Dillard of Bigfork and Dick Baldwin of Condon have had enough fires to divert their attention from bugs to fires. At last report it is difficult to say which may be the hottest.

Bob DeLamatre is in charge of post-flight ratio and appraisal surveys for the Bureau of Entomology in the Flathead area. Bob received some of his early experience on the Swan so this is not new country to him.

Art Cramer and Monk DeJarnette inspected the Bond Creek chemical control project and the Elk Basin trap trees last week.

Reports of deep snow hardships in the Lightning Creek area on the Kaniksu and the Powell country on the Lolo this past winter and spring can be matched by Flathead winter operational surveys as well as the control projects on Lion Creek in the upper Swan. Region Two detailers Wes Hathaway and William Flourde, since returned to Region Two, can vouch for this, as can many of the Flathead cruisers.

BETTER BRIEFS - Dendroctonus engelmanni Hopk. is the full scientific name of the Engelmann spruce bark beetle that is causing all the fuss.

The spruce tree is the preferred host of this beetle but under the extreme population pressure of an epidemic it will attack lodgepole pine.

The adult beetle is all black or black with dark reddish-brown wing covers and is about the size of the head of a match.

Spruce beetles make most new attacks in June and July. They bore through the bark and lay eggs in galleries under it. The eggs hatch in about two weeks into larvae that feed on the cambium. The larvae normally take about three months to mature into the resting or pupal stage. After spending about two weeks in this stage transformation to adults is complete. These new or callow adults overwinter under the bark. They emerge the next spring to attack new trees and start the cycle all over again.

An overlapping of broods often makes the life cycle of the spruce beetle appear very complex. The beetle's life cycle in trap trees is shorter than in standing green trees.

When the beetles bore into the bark, the dust and frass that collects on the bark scales, spider webs and vegetation around the spruce tree is the principal means of detecting new attacks.

BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY NOTES - Fred Knight, from the Bureau's office in Fort Collins, Colorado has come to the region to study the effectiveness of woodpecker work. He will screen half the bole of a number of spruce trees in order to compare beetle activity where woodpeckers are free to work with the beetle activity where they are excluded. About 50 trees will be screened and studied on each of three areas. They will probably be located on the Kootenai and Flathead Forests.

The infestation in 1953 appears to average close to double the 1952 infestation. This agrees with 2 to 1 increase on which plans were made.

Dave McComb is in charge of the Bureau's trap tree experiments. They are being made on 10 test plots and three check plots on the Kootenai and two plots on the Flathead. Over 700 trap trees were felled on 1,760 acres in April and May on the basis of 1/4, 1/2, 1 and 2 trees per acre. A 100 percent survey was made of the test and check plots before the trap trees were felled and will be repeated after the flight of the beetles. The post flight survey will determine the effectiveness of the trap trees. The experiment is designed to tell how many trap trees to cut to concentrate the beetle attacks within the traps thereby saving other spruce trees from attack. Examinations and records will be made of the attacks on the tops and sides of the trap trees throughout their full length. The experimental trap trees will be treated chemically or logged this fall.

There are few new infestations in the remaining spruce trees where the infested spruce has been logged.

Examination of treated trap trees shows that spray can be successfully applied to the under side of felled trees. Turning is not necessary. The EDB spray penetrates the bark and kills all stages of beetles and eggs.

The Bureau is initiating a study of the experimental control of Douglas-fir bark beetle by logging. The test is being made on Iron Creek on the Coeur d'Alene. One area will be logged, one will be treated chemically and the sides will be used as a check. Trap trees will also be used. Hans Roffler is on the administration end of the job.

Jim Evenden's travel car gets weaker and weaker -- too many miles, too many bugs and too little rest - the mechanical buggy stops but the man keeps on going.

CRAMER ON JOB - Art Cramer, an old hand in Region One, has returned from Colorado, where he was assistant director of the spruce bark beetle control job. He will be in charge of trap trees and chemical control. DeJarnette took him to the Flathead, Kootenai and Kaniksu to get acquainted with the work. After this trip he will go to Colorado to bring his family to Missoula. Art is a welcome addition to the spruce bark beetle crew.

TRAP TREE TEST IN GLACIER PARK - Officials of Glacier National Park are providing the Bureau of Entomology with a trap tree test plot on Nyack Creek. This plot has the advantage that it will not be disturbed by any logging in the vicinity. The Bureau will use it as one of the series of plots on which it is studying trap trees.

KOOTENAI KOOTINGS - Merrill Oaks, in charge of chemical treating of trap trees on the Kootenai; Howard Ahlskog, James Evenden, David Scott, Bob Smart, and Ernie Grambo examined the treating experiment on O'Brian Creek August 10. A red dye had been used in the EDB solution, which made inspection of treated surfaces easy. Inspection of trap trees treated two weeks earlier with EDB showed excellent results as measured by dead beetles and spoiled eggs. The treatment was effective when performed with a stirrup-pump and spray nozzle. Ten gallons of EDB mixture were used to treat a 20-inch tree. As much as 16 gallons were used on larger trees.

De Smith held an on-the-job training session for operational surveys at Turner camp on the Libby District August 4, 5 and 6. George Anagnostopoulos, Dick Fifield, Dave Kauffman, Ray Johnson and Virgil Findell took part. Cruising techniques and identification of infested spruce were covered. Plots were measured in the Seventeen Mile drainage and new attack (1" galleries) were observed in standing trees and in decked logs along the right-of-way for the new road into the Lost Fork and Hemlock Creek sale.

An operational survey was made on the Sylvanite's most primitive area in extreme northwest Montana on American Creek August 3 to 12 by Bob Gorsuch and Joe Skelly and six-man crew. There was a 15-mile pack trip. The timber may have to come out through Canada. Over 3,000 acres were cruised. Slopes up to 150 percent were encountered. One member of the crew was treed for two hours by a moose.

Ernie Grambo reports that surveys of areas logged for infested spruce last year show almost no 1953 infestation in the remaining spruce trees. Such areas include Pipe Creek, Big Creek and Pinkham Creek where the residual stands contain light to heavy volumes of spruce.

The Sylvanite District reports the Meadow Creek road completed ready for graveling. Work has started on the road up the South Fork of Yaak River. ~~****~~ Junior Foresters Johnson, Kauffman, Findel and Skelly have been assigned to the district. They are now working on spruce surveys.

Charles Weller, detailer-engineer, from Colorado has been busy locating spruce access roads around Sylvanite. Last week he explored American, Burnt, Cool and Pheasant Creeks. His spare time is used checking on road construction in Black-tail Creek. Weller walks twice as many miles as he puts on his power wagon.

Junior Forester Bob Feilzor of the Troy District left for Minnesota August 6 to get married August 8. He plans to drive back -- or float out on a cloud.

John Milodragovich has been examining trap trees at La Foe Lake to determine if they can be logged or must be sprayed.

LIGHTNING TOO - On August 6 Francis Pixley, who made the short airplane trip mentioned in the last issue of the NEWS, thought that the spruce bark beetles were attacking his house. He was much relieved to find out that it was merely a lightning strike. It knocked a few bricks off the chimney and scorched the wiring.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR for publication in the NEWS will be welcome. Let us hear from you.

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